MUKHERJEE): (a) The US Government has stated that it favours expansion of the UN Security Council and supports Germany and Japan for permanent membership, but has taken no position on the selection process for other new members. A US State Department official has expressed the view in February 1995 that "India would theoretically be in running for a permanent seat, but that its relationship with Pakistan and the problem of Kashmir would likely be part of any discussion at the UN".

(b) As a member of the UN, the US is entitled to its views regarding restructuring and expansion of the UN Security Council. India's views on this matter are different. However, this will not prevent the expansion of Indo-US defence relations in areas of mutual benefit as envisaged in the Agreed Minute signed during the visit of US Defence Secretary, William Perry, to India in January 1995.

Incident of bomb blast in Connaught Place area in New Delhi

1663. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some incident of bomb blast has been reported in Connaught Place area of New Delhi on 20th November, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any casualty or damage to properties was reported due to this blast;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any arrests have been made in this regard;

(f) whether Government have taken some measures to ensure that such incidents are not repeated in futures; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No such incident of bomb blast has been reported on 20th November, 1995. However, at about 1930 hours on 21st November, 1995 there was a bomb explosion in front of the Delhi Durbar Restaurant in New Delhi. It injured 24 persons, damaged 13 vehicles (5 of them severely), shattered the window-panes of 22 shops and damaged 11 of the shops severely. The injured persons were immediately removed to the hospital. After necessary medical treatment, the majority were discharged on that very day and the remaining on the following day.

A case under section 307/427 IPC, Section 3/4/5 of Explosive Substances Act and Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act was registered on 21.11.1995. Investigations made have revealed that the explosive material was packed in 15 kilogram tin container, bearing the label 'Virka' and was triggered off by a timing device. A fresh and thorough search of the spot by officials of the Crime Branch on 22.11.95 led to recovery of 22.5 cm. long 'Pencil Timer Device' from a corner of the road near the spot. It was defused by the Bomb Disposal Squad. Traces of the explosive found have tested positive for PETN (Penta Erythrolatol Tetra Nitrate), a high explosive.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) The following steps have been taken to prevent such bomb explosions in Delhi in future:—

(i) Anti-explosive precautions are being exercised at various places of popular congregation viz. Railway Stations, Airport, ISBT, important places of worship.

(ii) Surveillance has been increased.

(iii) Public Awareness compaigns have been organised through the media for the public to exercise caution from unclaimed/abandoned proberty and to report existence of suspicious material to the police promptly.

(iv) Market Associations and Residents Associations have been asked to maintain constant vigilance in the market and residential area against suspicious-looking articles.

Committee as a follow up of Vohra Committee report

1664. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sometime back set up a five member official committee as follow-up of Vohra Committee report;

(b) whether that Committee has released any of its report; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) In persuance of the recommendations of Vohra Committee Report, a Nodal Group comprising 5 members has been set up.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Establishment of Oil Refinery

1665. SHRI SARDA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether different sites have been finalised in Orissa for the establishment of oil refineries;

(b) if so, the country with the collaboration of which the oil refineries are proposed to be set up in Orissa;

(c) the capacities of those proposed oil refineries; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the establishment of those oil refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) ICC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on 16.9.1995 for setting up a 6 MMTPA refinery in Eastern India as a joint ventrue project. The exact location of the refinery and the other details will be decided based on Detailed Feasibility Report. Government has already accorded stage-I clearence for the project. Action for preparation of DFR has been initiated by IOC.

An LOI has been issued to M/s. Ashok Leyland-GOTCO in August, 1992 for setting up of 6.00 MMTPA refinery at Orissa. The progress of the projects are reviewed to expedite implementation.

Bids for Super National Highways

1666. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether preliminary feasibility studies have been commissioned on all the seven corridors of the Super National Highway stretch and if so, whether the bids have been received till now;

(b) whether Government propose to offer the option of handling 30 per cent of the volume of work at lowest bid rates to the Consultancy agency in lieu of fee for conducting the feasibility study;

(c) the quantum of funds assured by private investors for building selected segments of Super National Highway corridors; and

(d) the plans to raise funds for acquisition of land by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The National Highways Authority of India on behalf of the Government have invited global tenders from parties interested in conducting feasibility studies for the proposed Super National Highways on this condition.

(c) Too early to indicate.

(d) As far as funds for land acquisition